

## Stereotypical Behavior

Stereotypical behavior, or abnormal behavior, in dolphins is a symptom of lack of stimulation and boredom. While in captivity, these dolphins are reduced to small barren tanks, kept away from certain members of the pod, and are told when to eat and exercise. The dolphins at the Mirage are no different.

Aggression



Gate Chewing



Listlessness-Waiting at Gate



## Our Mission

The majority of the dolphins at the Mirage have been born in captivity, but these dolphins have the right to retire to a sea-pen sanctuary. Until then, a shade structure should be constructed. It has been verbally agreed on by the Director of Animal Care but has yet to be accomplished. We propose to end the breeding program and to cease importing of any additional dolphins. A dozen dolphins have already given the habitat the name, "Dolphin Death Pool."

***Please do not allow any more dolphins to suffer.***



Ways to help the Mojave Dolphins: **DON'T BUY A TICKET** & follow the campaign to take action

[www.mojavedolphins.com](http://www.mojavedolphins.com)  
[www.facebook.com/lasvegasdolphins](https://www.facebook.com/lasvegasdolphins)  
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[www.youtube.com/MojaveDolphins](https://www.youtube.com/MojaveDolphins)



## Dolphins are not smiling at The Mirage

Beneath all the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas lies a tourist trap called The Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat. Within this small network of pools currently lies ten dolphins. These ten dolphins include three generations of captive slaves, two dolphins stolen from the wild in the 80s, and three dolphins from SeaWorld, one of which is known to have bitten a small child!

These dolphins are subjected to the unforgiving Mojave sun as well as fumes from the highways surrounding Sin City. Twelve dolphins have died within the confines of the Mojave Desert since its opening in 1990. The Mirage may have forgotten about these dolphins, but we haven't.



Rear Pool

## Lack of Shade

Animal Welfare Act regulations state under 9CFR Section 3.103(b) Facilities, Outdoor, Shelter: Natural or artificial shelter which is appropriate for the species concerned, when local climatic conditions are taken into consideration, shall be provided for all marine mammals kept outdoors to afford them protection from the weather or from direct sunlight.

Wild dolphins don't need shade from the sun in the ocean. They are constantly moving and only at the surface to come up to breathe. Dolphins in captivity spend most of their lives at the surface begging for food, attention and stimulation.

The foliage found around the 3 pools at the Mirage hotel do not provide enough protection from the harsh sunlight in the Mojave desert. Not only do we have temps reaching over 110° F regularly in the summer, but nearly all of those days are days with high UV index rates. That means you are getting maximum damage from being in the sun. The Mirage knows this is a problem, and that is why they lather on sunscreen (we have video proof) every day. Even the trainers must be suffering from the heat because there has been an increase of shade structures and use of misters during the hotter months. The dolphins still sit, 25 years this October, without any shade.

## Dolphin Poxvirus

Poxvirus is a disease that forms skin lesions on dolphins. It has been observed in both free-ranging and captive bottlenose dolphins. The large patches are made up of smaller spots. The color and size can change rapidly. The disease occurs frequently in captive dolphins and is endemic in some colonies. Poxvirus is not contagious to humans like the pinniped version of the disease. In captivity, there appears to be a correlation between pox-like lesions and stress, environmental conditions, and the overall health of the animal. Poxvirus is not immunosuppressive unlike the cetacean morbillivirus.



Maverick-Poxvirus (Pic Taken August 2014)

Poxvirus could worsen due to water temperature and quality, salinity levels or periods of environmental, physical, and/or mental stress. Dolphins under natural conditions often tolerate salinity changes, yet in captivity they have been destroyed by the combined effects of an otherwise mild disease superimposed on a severe skin condition resulting from diluted water. We have been reporting on Maverick's condition with the poxvirus since January 2014. He has shown signs of the disease for a minimum of two years. Within a few short months, the disease appeared after SeaWorld Orlando shipped dolphins Beetle and Cosmo to The Mirage habitat.

## 55% Dolphin Mortality at The Mirage

12 out of 22 dolphins have died at the Mirage since its opening in 1990.

- ◆ Darla's Baby
- ◆ Sigma's Baby
- ◆ Merlin
- ◆ Bugsy
- ◆ Darla
- ◆ Sigma
- ◆ Picabo
- ◆ Banjo
- ◆ Rascal/Wizard
- ◆ Squirt
- ◆ Sage
- ◆ Sgt. Pepper



Richard O'Barry-Dolphin Project-The Cove